thousand dollars,) and moreover wished to prove that Dr. Labesse had amputated against the rules of surgery. M. Chaussier, in his memoir, protests strongly against such excessive ingratitude, and proves that the rule not to amputate sphacelated limbs before a line of demarcation is formed, is too absolute; that it is correct only in cases of gangrene from an internal cause. The experience of Larrey, Yvan, Samuel Cooper, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Thomson, Hennen, &c. has proved that amputation of a sphacelated limb, produced by an external or mechanical cause is indicated, if the life of the patient is in danger, although the gangrene is not circumscribed; therefore, the amputation performed by Dr. Labesse was performed according to the true rules of the art. The fee demanded by Dr. Labesse, and which the patient considered as excessive, appears to M. Chaussier too moderate, and he has fixed it at $1320.

In a postscript to the memoir, there are some observations on gangrene from internal and also from external causes, and two cases of gangrene from mechanical cause, followed by death, in consequence of amputation of the limb not having been performed in proper time.

The patient of M. Labesse has desisted from his appeal to the Royal Court of Metz, and he has payed the costs, and the fee legally due his physician.

70. *Case of Supposed Poisoning.*—As the lives of individuals often depend upon the testimony of medical men, every fact that can tend to render the latter cautious, or enable them to form correct opinions on subjects respecting which they are likely to be called on for evidence in a court of justice, becomes of extreme interest, we therefore copy from the *London Medical and Physical Journal*, for October last, the following case, which occurred in France, in 1818. "A woman was attacked with violent pains in the stomach, and general symptoms of illness, after having walked some distance on a very sultry day. She had taken no refreshment whatever until her return home, when she partook of a light meal with her husband and some friends. From the commencement of the attack, she was tormented with raging thirst; she had frequent stools, accompanied with great pain in the bowels. She did not vomit. Upon examination post mortem, the stomach was found to be in a state of inflammation, and there was every appearance of some violent caustic having been applied. In some parts the coats of the stomach were entirely destroyed. The pyloric portion was of a deep brown colour, and contracted. After this examination, Dr. R. declared it to be his opinion that poison had been administered. The same opinion was also given by several physicians and surgeons, who were consulted. It was determined that the destruction of the stomach must have arisen from some caustic material, *for that no disease could destroy so large a portion of living animal substance.* Chaussier was fortunately called upon for his opinion: he very properly deprecated the rash and ignorant decision of his brethren, who had made no attempt to prove the presence of poisonous matter. He stated that the same appearances, and the same sudden accession of symptoms, frequently occurred from internal disease. The husband of the woman was consequently acquitted. There was not the slightest grounds for suspicion in this case, excepting the manner in which the woman had been attacked, and the destruction of the stomach which was detected upon examination after death."

CHEMISTRY.

71. *Action of Brome and the Cyanuret of Brome upon the Animal System.*—M. Barthez, attached to the Military Hospital of the Royal Guard, has occupied himself with extensive researches for the purpose of ascertaining the effects of brome, hydro-bromate of potass, deuto-bromuret of mercury, and the cyanuret of brome, upon the animal economy.

From his experiments with the first and last named of these four substances, he has drawn the following conclusions: 1st. Brome completely dissolved in distilled water, and injected into the veins, produces death in doses of ten or twelve drops, by coagulating the blood, without affecting the nervous system. 2d. Introduced into the empty stomach, the œsophagus being immediately tied, it causes death in three or four days; whilst if the stomach be filled with aliments, this substance is converted into the hydro-bromic acid, the poisonous effects of which are infinitely less active. Should the œsophagus not be tied, it will require from fifty to sixty drops to cause death, and care is still necessary to prevent its being rejected soon after being taken. 3d. Brome taken in an infusion of coffee, and swallowed before it has had time to be converted into bromic acid, will equally cause the death of the animal. 4th. Brome introduced into the stomach of a dog, in the dose of fifty or sixty drops, produces death, unless soon followed by vomiting. 5th. It has a strong analogy in its operation with iodine, and consequently ought to be placed next to it in the scale of irritating poisons. 6th. The cyanuret of brome ought to be ranged, like the cyanuret of iodine among the narcotico-acrid poisons. 7th. Injected into the cellular tissue in the dose of five or eight grains, it produces mortal symptoms, without however, always inducing death. 8th. Introduced into the stomachs of dogs, it only causes death in doses of four or five grains, and the dose requisite to kill a rabbit, under similar circumstances, is infinitely less.—*Archives Générales, Sept.* 1828.

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72. *Reduction of the Sulphuret of Arsenic.*—M. Berzelius points out the following as one of the most certain means of ascertaining the most minute portions of arsenic contained in the precipitate obtained by the hydro-sulphuric acids and the hydro-sulphates. The precipitate is to be enclosed in a glass tube, stopped at one end, about four or five inches long, and of the calibre of a large quill. This tube is to be warmed by a lamp of alcohol, over which it is to be held obliquely in such a manner as that the flame will be directed immediately above the part where the substance to be reduced is placed so that the vapour of the sulphuret of arsenic will be obliged to pass this heated point: after this, if the vapour passes slowly it will be completely decomposed. The sulphurous acid produced will disengage itself and the arsenious acid be deposited on the sides of the tubes. The tube is drawn out (*étire*) after being heated, the arsenious acid is pushed into the portion of the tube drawn out (*étirée*) and by heating it, it is made to pass in vapour upon burning charcoal, which effects its reduction. Charcoal in lumps is to be preferred to the powder as the latter is dispersed by the heat.—*Journal de Chem. Méd. Sept.* 1828.

MISCELLANEOUS.

73. *Constitution of the Year.*—"When Sydenham treated of the constitution of the year, he meant an epidemic, or a certain morbid condition of the human body as an effect, from a certain state of atmosphere as a cause, which he termed the constitution or disposition of the year. The effect was a matter of observation, and certain: the cause admitted of disputation."

"If Sydenham had flourished in this era he would have termed the constitution of the years 1825, 6, 7, and 8, intermittent, and it has been combined with an unusual degree of neuralgic affection, from hemicrania to the most intractable forms of tic doloureux. A similar combination of disease took place in the year 1809, but has not prevailed for a quarter of a century to the extent which it has done during the last two years. It commenced in the spring of 1825, having been preceded by an unusual humid autumn, during which the north of Europe was flooded to a very alarming extent. It was ushered in by a very fatal peritonitis, both simple and puerperal, in the human subject, and by a still more destructive wet rot amongst sheep. A wool merchant informed